

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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The Source of Life

God is the source of life and since we are told that God is love, it follows that life is love and love is life. It follows that the mysteries of life can only be solved, its triumphs achieved, its glories realized, by those who have learned the mysteries of love. What a gate to what a world! Thru love we enter into life, and Life and Love blended make the glory of eternity, its rapture, its power. In the ages past, back in the remote period of time, a little drop overflowed the fountain of infinite love and falling thru space it lighted upon the garden "eastward in Eden," and behold a wonderful vision,—a man in the image and likeness of God, a woman in the image and likeness of man,—one in life and love.

"Lo Here, and Lo There."

It is said that history moves in cycles, and this theory appears to be peculiarly confirmed by the reappearance of some of the conditions which immediately preceded the first advent of our Lord on the earth. It was a time of false prophets who drew away many, a sign which Jesus said would also herald his second coming, so that he definitely warned his disciples against the "lo here" and "lo there" proclamations of presumptuous deceivers.

In the beginning of this twentieth century, when in the full blaze of intellectual and religious enlightenment, one would think that it would be impossible for a transparent fraud to draw away disciples after him, we are become the astonished witnesses of a Dowie proclaiming himself Elijah, divinely sent, with thousands of followers; and of a Mrs. Eddy, calling herself, and being called, the divine Mother, as God is the heavenly Father, and leading a great multitude into gross delusion. Another "divine" leader has founded the "Holy Rollers" of New York, who cut up extravagant capers, not unlike the prophets of Baal, and claims to perform marvels of healing.

We will not occupy time and space refuting the preposterous claims of these presumptuous blasphemers, for sane people do not need such an argument, and others would not profit by it. But we call attention, for certain reasons, to a feature peculiar to all these delusions, and that is the up-to-date thriftiness of the leaders. They have the very keenest kind of a twentieth century nose for money. Our Rev. Mr. Elijah Dowie is so liberally supplied with the "tenths" which he squeezes out of his followers by a most unsparing use of damnation arguments, that he lives like a lord and dresses like a prince. How wonderfully things have changed since Jesus drew that sharp contrast between the ascetic Baptist, the *second* Elijah, and those who were "clothed in soft raiment and lived in kings palaces." Now we are presented with Elijah the third, but no camel hair costume, no

locusts and wild honey for him. Soft raiment and kings' palaces are hardly good enough for this divine commissioner in our midst, whose deluded followers surround him with all the luxuries and all the homage of a king, while they shout, "Lo here," long haired men and slovenly women filling the air with reek and riot as they throng around the hoary old imposter.

In other quarters a multitude turn toward the Boston self raised she divinity, with shouts of "Lo there," and in this case we witness the same thriftiness which knows how to profit by the American eagerness to be humbugged. Money, money, money, with multitudinous and musical jingle runs in a melodious minor beneath the gibberish of this new theology, which is dignified when we call it a mumble and jumble of all the religious fads, fooleries and lunacies that ever ran riot in the wide and sorrowful wilderness of human credulity. We know that none of these things are of the Lord, or of the Gospel, for Paul said that the Gospel tended to soundness of mind, and there is anything else but soundness of mind, either in these lunacies, or in the covetousness which manifestly lies at the bottom of them.

It is just here that we want to speak an earnest and sorrowful word. What is it that ~~men~~ will not do for money? This question is answered briefly. There is *nothing* that men will not do for money. They will murder, not simply bodies, but souls. They will lead weak and innocent people astray; they will blaspheme; they will swagger in the face of God, and defy eternal damnation; all this,—and more, for a dollar, a dirty rag of a dollar. But this is not all the question we have to ask. What is it that some *church* people will do for money? There are people who apparently hope to be saved, yet who to gain money will do things that traverse the Golden Rule, saying the *least* that can be said. A most sorrowful spectacle, and indicating a most sorrowful condition, for it is impossible that a man of sound mind would trade his influence, his good name, his Christian reputation, destroy his peace, imperil his soul, for money, even a whole world full of it. It is a species of insanity, a moral petrification, where the unhappy victim is not conscious, and cannot be made sensible, of the enormous sacrifice he has made, and continues to make—for money.

The disease begins early, even at the cradle, or beyond the cradle, and it behooves the wise pastor and teacher to counteract it by sowing in the minds of the young a wholesome contempt for mere gain, a knowledge of its temptations and delusions, its melancholy dangers; by sowing also in their minds the broad and generous principles of the Golden Rule, illustrating it in all the relations of life, by setting forth also the priceless treasure of a good name and a Christian influence, unstained and unimpaired by the disgusting slime of covetousness.